GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:619
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
Panda Shri Prabodh;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of providing meal to each student per day under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether financial grant of rupees two per beneficiary per day is insufficient to provide supplementary nutrition under Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(c) if so,whether the Government proposes to increase/revise the grant; and

(d) if so,the details thereof and if not,the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SH. M.A.A. FATMI)

(a): Under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, free foodgrain @ 100 grams per child per school day at primary stage and @ 150 grams per child per school day at upper primary stage is supplied by the FCI to States/UT.The Government of India makes payments direct to FCI for supply of foodgrains at BPL rates.In addition to free foodgrain,the Government of India is at present providing Central assistance towards cooking cost @ Rs.1.89 per child per school day at Primary stage and Rs.2.42 per child per day at Upper Primary Stage for North Eastern Region States including Sikkim, subject to a minimum mandatory contribution of 20 paise per child per day by these States.In case of other States/UTs,Central assistance towards cooking cost is being provided @ Rs.1.58 per child per day at primary stage and Rs.2.10 per child per day at upper primary stage subject to a minimum mandatory contribution of 50 paise per child per day by these States/UTs.Central assistance under different components,namely, transportation of food grains @ Rs. 125/- per quintal for 1 1 special categories of states viz. Arunachal Pradesh,Assam,Meghalaya,Mizoram,Manipur,Nagaland,Tripura,Sikkim,J&K,Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and @ Rs.75/- per quintal for other States/UTs,is provided.Two percent of the total assistance on free food grains,transport cost and cooking cost is earmarked for Management Monitoring & Evaluation,which is shared in the ratio of 1.8: 0.2 between the State/UTs and the Centre.Central assistance @ Rs.60,000 for construction of kitchen-cum-store per unit and @ Rs.5000 for provisioning and replacement of kitchen devices per school is also provided to States/UTs.

(b),(c)&(d): At the time of extension of mid day meal scheme to the upper primary stage,a decision to link the cost of cooking to Inflation Adjusted Index (Consumer Price Index)and assess cooking cost (both for primary and upper primary) every two years beginning 2008-09, was taken.Accordingly, with effect from 1.4.2008, the Central share of cooking cost was raised from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.58 per child per day for primary and from Rs. 2.00 to Rs. 2.10 per child per day for upper primary. In case of North-Eastern States,including Sikkim,the Central share of cooking cost has been raised from Rs. 1.80 to Rs. 1.89 per child per school day at primary stage and from Rs. 2.30 to Rs. 2.42 per child per school day at upper primary stage.Some States/UTs are spending more than their minimum mandatory contribution for betterment of mid day meal.In April 2008,a National Level Committee comprising Nutritional experts and representatives from 5 States has been constituted: -

(i) To re-examine the food grains requirement (per child per day) under MDM Scheme.

(ii) To examine the adequacy of the present norm of Central Assistance of cooking cost (per child per day) for 2009-2010.

(iii) To design and institute a suitable mechanism to factor in inflation index in the cooking cost norms.

(iv) To examine any other related matter for appropriate recommendation.